

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118983
Inspection date	07 August 2007
Inspector	Carol Patricia Willett

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1989. The childminder lives with her husband and two adult sons. They live in a bungalow in Sandhurst, Berkshire, within walking distance of local amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding with sleeping and toilet facilities provided in this area. There is also a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years. There are currently ten children who attend on a part time basis of which six are under eight years and four are under five years. The registration does not include overnight care.

The childminder has attended an approved course of training and holds a Certificate in Childminding Practice and a first aid certificate. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has a highly effective approach to health and hygiene. She has exceptional procedures and routines in place that ensure the children are cared for in a well maintained home. They thrive because the areas where they play and sleep are extremely child friendly, comfortable, clean and safe. Children develop a very good understanding of personal hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times. Children use separate towels, knowing which colour is theirs, which reduces the risk of cross-infection. Children have a very good awareness of healthy practices as they get their sun cream and put it on themselves before they go outside. The childminder reminds children they need their hats before they go out to ensure they are protected from the sun.

The childminder has a very good understanding of healthy eating. She has registered with the environmental health office and uses information from them to inform her practice. For example, she has a food probe for reheating food and regularly monitors the temperature of the fridge and freezer. Children eat a varied selection of healthy, nutritious meals and snacks which are supplied by their parents. The childminder prepares them according to parents' wishes. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to keep children healthy during hot weather as she ensures children drink plenty of water to maintain their health, providing them with child friendly water bottles. They have free access to drinks throughout the day. Meal times are social occasions where children sit to the table as they talk to the childminder and each other. Children's dietary needs are well met as the childminder keeps comprehensive, well organised records and shares daily information about their individual needs.

Children have excellent opportunities to experience a wide range of activities to develop their physical skills, enjoy fresh air and promote good health. These include visits to the local park, toddler groups, soft play centres and swimming and garden play on the wheeled toys, trampoline and slide. The childminder joins in with their play, supporting and encouraging their developing skills. They experience a wide range of planned activities, tools and resources, including construction toys, jigsaws, painting and drawing, to develop their manipulative skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in an exceptionally well-maintained home where risks are identified and minimised. The childminder organises the space well, providing a dedicated play area and toy storage so children can play freely and in comfort, choosing toys independently. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits. Children are able to move around safely accessing the inviting garden freely through the patio doors. They access an excellent range of varied resources to meet their needs and are happy, relaxed and secure in the stimulating, homely environment.

The childminder selects toys and prepares the room for children's arrival so they feel welcomed and have a sense of belonging, choosing the toys according to her knowledge of the children. Older children are able to self select from an extremely varied range of toys and play resources, which meet safety standards. Children's safety is well promoted by the childminder carrying out regular checks on toys and equipment. Children are very closely supervised both indoors and outdoors to ensure their safety at all times as the childminder is exceptionally safety

conscious and attentive. The childminder completes risk assessments every year and uses a daily checklist to check the home and garden, before children arrive, to ensure their safety, taking good measures to minimise risks. Appropriate safety and fire-fighting equipment is provided within the home and emergency evacuation procedures are practised with children so they become confident in an emergency.

Children's welfare is promoted by all the required procedures and documentation maintained by the childminder. She recognises her responsibilities towards the children in her care and is aware of signs and symptoms of abuse. The childminder is proactive in developing her own knowledge which ensures children are extremely well protected as she has completed training in child protection and health and safety. She records accident and incident details effectively. She has appropriate insurance cover in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has a warm and caring manner and excellent interactive skills which ensure children play and learn in a stimulating environment where they make good progress in all areas, developing confidence and independence. Children are extremely confident, happy and secure as they play in the well organised environment, as the childminder has excellent organisational skills. She provides and manages a range of exciting activities and experiences to keep the children happy and stimulated. They have enormous fun and join in craft activities with enthusiasm and interest. They enjoy painting t-shirts provided by the childminder, using a variety of tools such as printing shapes and brushes. The childminder has exceptional organisation skills, which ensures all ages can participate, offering support as needed. For example she sits the baby in the highchair to the table with all the older children and allows him to paint and print with his hands.

The childminder informally plans an interesting range of suitably challenging activities daily which absorb children and maintain their interest and concentration. They are gently encouraged to join in with activities, for example, singing and listening to stories, which they join in with enthusiasm. Excellent teaching strategies with lots of conversation develop children's skills, thinking and learning. Early communication skills are well supported through high quality interactions during play. There are good opportunities to extend learning and initiate play as the children freely access a range of toys and activities and explore the environment. They show high levels of independence as they select toys that interest them, such as the electronic toys such as the laptop and keyboard to make music. Children benefit from regular outings to the local toddler group, park, library, shops and to places such as Tri-lakes and Teddy World, which promotes their learning, develops social skills and stimulates their interest in the wider world. They take part in an excellent range of outings which extends their learning and development when they have teddy bears picnics or go on the train to a nearby town and organised outings to a children's farm with the local childminding group.

Children are extremely confident and secure in their relationship with the childminder. The childminder finds out about children's needs and interests before they attend. This helps them to settle well and benefit from care that is consistent with their home routines. The children receive cuddles and meaningful praise which increases their sense of belonging and encourages them to be increasingly independent. These close and caring relationships increase the children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. They make excellent progress as the childminder has a very positive and enthusiastic approach to childcare and to the children's overall development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are valued and cared for according to their individual needs. They learn to share and take turns and play well together as a group. Children learn, and follow, house rules because they are clear and children understand the reasons for them. As a result, children's behaviour is generally very good. The childminder forms strong bonds with the children in her care very quickly which results in children being happy and secure and very well settled. Children all have equal access to toys and activities and they receive equal attention from the childminder. The boys enjoy pushing the dolls around in the garden happily creating role play scenarios. They begin to learn about differences within society as they have access to a range of resources reflecting positive images, such as dolls and books. The childminder ensures she has sufficient information about any religious or cultural needs within her group of children so she can understand and support their play. She develops children's understanding of different cultural celebrations as she incorporates them into her activity planning.

Children are exceptionally confident and self-assured as the childminder gives meaningful praise and values their achievements. The childminder acts as a good role model, using please and thank-you when talking to the children. She encourages sharing and good manners and supports them when they find it difficult to share resources and attention. The children are gently encouraged to follow the house rules, such as not jumping on the furniture as they may fall and hurt themselves. Consequently children are learning how to behave well and care about each other.

The childminder has excellent strategies for building good relationships with parents, which contributes significantly to children's wellbeing. The childminder builds trust in her relationships with parents resulting in her caring for all the siblings from the same family. She ensures records of activities and procedures are comprehensive and clear, and shares information through verbal discussions and contact books and photographs she takes of the children at play, to ensure consistency and help parents feel actively involved in their children's development. She has a comprehensive range of documentation, including written agreements and consents, which ensure she respects and follows parents' wishes for the care of their children.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The children benefit from an extremely well organised environment and clear and comprehensive policies to keep them safe and give consistency. The childminder has both experience and qualification, which enable her to provide an extremely high standard of care. She organises her paperwork effectively to ensure it is confidential but easily available if needed, and meticulously keeps all the detail required by regulation. The childminder works extremely well to provide outstanding quality care for children. Parents are kept well informed about the service provided by regular verbal and clear written communication. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to improve minor details to her documentation. She has made appropriate changes, such as providing parents with the contact details for Ofsted, which further ensures children's welfare is safeguarded.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk